



Writer Rick Bass: Poetry, prose, fiction, literary non-fiction, screenwriting

In his artistic statement, Rick Bass says, "In a time of great economic, ecologic, and social delamination, is it not valuable to identify and celebrate places where beauty still resides – whether on the landscape or in the best and illuminated regions of our hearts? It is important to me also that these celebrations and illuminations be completely organic and earned, which is to say, sustainable rather than forced, and possessing integrity rather than being sentimental or saccharine."

When asked to describe his artistic innovation, Bass writes: "Originally trained and employed as a wildlife biologist and then a geologist, I began my publishing career in the mid-1980s by writing hunting and fishing articles for sporting magazines. I've maintained this throughout my career and have served as contributing editor to *Sports Afield*, *Field & Stream* and *Contemporary Sportsman*."

He goes on to describe his work as a short story writer, novelist of fiction historical fiction, non-fiction, screenwriter and documentarian. "There is perhaps no written form I have not attempted ... it certainly might have made more career sense to focus on one or two genres and then working to make a name for myself in that one or possibly two genres, but I hate to imagine the creative pleasure I would have missed by limiting myself to such narrow constraints."

The panel felt that Bass was an extremely productive artist whose work shows great breadth and depth, stretching through genres. They responded to him both as a prominent and inspirational writer.